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Honorable Joseph W. Martin, Jr.,
Speaker of the
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Speaker:

There is transmitted herewith a draft of a proposed bill
"To amend section 605 of the Communications Act of 1934 in order
to increase the security of the United States, and for other
purposes."

The purpose of the proposed bill is to authorize certain
governmental agencies to receive and use for intelligence purposes
the contents of any wire or radio communication if such receipt
and utilization is in the interests of national security. It
is contemplated that the rules and regulations governing this
activity will be promulgated by the interested agencies, subject
to approval by the President.

The necessity for such legislation stems from the require-
ment that the federal government process all sources of intelligence
in order that the national security may be maintained in a field
wherein present law operates to protect the secrecy of communica-
tions which possibly contain matter detrimental to the safety of
the nation. Regulated access to the source material of intelligence
is a fundamental requirement for the successful operation of
government agencies concerned with security matters. The necessity
for such legislation is emphasized in the recommendation contained
on page 253 of the final report of the Joint Committee on the
"Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack" (Senate Document 244)
which recommendation states:

"That effective steps be taken to insure that
statutory or other restrictions do not operate to
the benefit of an enemy or other forces inimical
to the Nation's Security and to the handicap of
our own intelligence agencies. With this in mind,
the Congress should give serious study to, among
other things, the Communications Act of 1934; to

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NAVY review(s) completed.

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suspension in proper instances of the statute of limitations during war (it was impossible during the war to prosecute violations relating to 'Magic' without giving the secret to the enemy); to legislation designed to prevent unauthorized sketching, photographing, and mapping of military and naval reservations in peace time; and to legislation fully protecting the security of classified matter."

The Navy Department considers this matter one of importance and, with approval of the War Department, recommends enactment of the proposed legislation.